

TIPS FOR PASTORS NAVIGATING THE NEW COBB COUNTY COVID-19 REGULATIONS

Based on the Cobb County Declaration of Emergency that went into effect at noon on March 25, 2020, we've gathered some information to help pastors interpret the declaration and make decisions.



1. WHAT IT SAYS

- Public gatherings—whether inside or outdoors—of more than 10 people are prohibited anywhere in the county
- All county parks & rec closed
- No business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization shall allow more than 10 persons to be gathered at a single location if such gathering requires persons to stand or to be seated within 6 feet of any other person
- Everyone is required to shelter in place
- Churches are not considered "Essential Businesses," but food distribution places are. Nonessential businesses cannot be open before 6:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.



2. WHAT ABOUT SUNDAY SERVICES?

You can record or livestream Sunday services from the church as long as you follow the restrictions: No more than 10 people are to be involved. If more than 10 they must be at least six feet apart from each other.



3. WHAT ABOUT FUNERALS?

- No more than 10 people (including the funeral home officiants) are allowed, but you may have more than 10 if they are all at least six feet apart from each other. However, check with your funeral home as they may interpret the declaration differently, allowing only 10 people period.
- Some funeral homes may allow you to livestream the service from a phone.
- If the loved one is being cremated, there is the option to put off the service until restrictions are lifted.
- Many families are electing to have a small service now and planning to have a larger memorial service later when restrictions are lifted.



4. WHAT ABOUT "DRIVE-IN CHURCH"?

- Some churches are thinking about the option of "drive-in church" for Easter or other services. Like a drive-in movie, families would stay in their car and face an elevated outdoor stage. Sound is conveyed through a short-range FM transmitter that each car would dial in on their radio.
- Under the Declaration of Emergency, drive-in church is allowable as long as it happens between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and those on the stage stay six feet apart from each other.
- Consider bathroom facilities and how you would manage that.



5. WHAT COULD HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE

Cobb County Commission Chairman Mike Boyce said he may amend the declaration to close all nonessential businesses and tighten other restrictions if the new measures do not slow the virus sufficiently. This could mean no gatherings at the church building at all, even to record a service or have a drive-in service.



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